

**From:** Kimberly Helms  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/3/02 12:38am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Decision

To whom it may concern:

Please don't see my address and figure I'm an MS employee, so she doesn't count.

I am proud to be a Microsoft employee. I am a single mom who is able to send my child to private school and be involved in her school and activities. That's because Microsoft cares about people, and especially families and children. Last year, they donated hundred's of dollars, probably more than \$1,000, worth of software to my daughter's school so they could learn on the latest, most innovative products. My daughter is 6, so her friends and she especially enjoy the Magic School Bus titles. I am very active in my community and church and let everyone know I work at Microsoft. As I said, I am very proud of that. Microsoft makes such a difference in our community, and the business world. We strive everyday to make someone's life better. We don't want to hurt others. We want to be the best. That's what I teach my daughter, to do the best she can at everything she does. What if her friends' parents started telling me to tell her to not work so hard, so they could catch up? Would that be fair to my daughter? No, and I imagine you would never tell that to your children.

That's what you would be teaching by holding Microsoft back from being the best. "If the competition gets better than you, we'll just hold them back until you can catch up". That's not the ideals this country was founded on. "Be your best" was told to me everyday by my Granny who helped raise me. The anti-trust and anti-competition laws were developed in times for businesses that had great, expensive barriers to entry.

Partly due to Microsoft in some places, any person with a brain can go to a public library and learn to use a computer. Anyone could do what we do. Because we have passion for what we do, we do it well.

So don't punish or hold us back because we have passion and drive. Let us continue to develop great software and great people, without having to wait on the competition to catch up.

Thank you,  
Kimberly S. Helms